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Message Text

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21
ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 OMB-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /037 W
---------- 106170
R 300855Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 11433

FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION
FROM: AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, CH
SUBJECT: PRC--1975 GRAIN PRODUCTION

REF: (A) HK15282 DEC. 31, 1975

1. TODAY'S EDITION OF HONG KONG'S WEN HUI PAO, LEADING COMMUNIST DAILY, REPORTS THAT "ACCORDING TO INCOMPLETE STATISTICS" CHINA'S GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1975 REACHED 560 BILLION CATTIES (280 MILLION METRIC TONS), MORE THAN DOUBLE THE 1949 LEVEL OF "210-ODD BILLION CATTIES (105-ODD MILLION M.T.)". CLAIM APPEARED IN ARTICLE DEVOTED TO "THE GREAT THINGS CHAIRMAN MAO DID FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE."

2. COMMENT: USE OF QUALIFYING PHRASE "ACCORDING TO INCOMPLETE STATISTICS" IMPLIES THAT WEN HUI PAO NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN OF ITS FIGURES. HOWEVER, 280 MILLION M.T. IS MORE OR LESS IN LINE WITH 289 MILLION M.T. AGOFFICE ESTIMATE SUBMITTED AT END OF LAST YEAR (REF A).

3. OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE IS THE 1949 FIGURE USED BY WEN HUI PAO IN ITS COMPARISON OF 1975 WITH THAT YEAR. THE "210-ODD BILLION CATTIES" IS OBVIOUSLY A ROUNDED-DOWN QUOTE OF THE 1949 FIGURE
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FOR TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION IN THE TEN GREAT YEARS, I.E., 216.2

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BILLION CATTIES (OR 208.1 MILLION M.T.). THAT FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE SOYBEANS. IF THE 1949 TOTAL GRAIN FIGURE WERE TO INCLUDE SOYBEANS, IT WOULD READ "220-ODD BILLION CATTIES" (ACTUALLY 226.4 BILLION CATTIES, OR 113.2 MILLION M.T.).

4. IT SEEMS QUITE CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT WEN HUI PAO'S FIGURE OF 280 MILLION M.T. TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1975 DOES NOT INCLUDE SOYBEANS.
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